

## USCG AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 8-4

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2023*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, in January, I had the honor of speaking to a group from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 8-4 of Absecon Island, South Jersey. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed, all volunteer component of the Coast Guard. Comprised of about 23,000 people, these volunteers work with the U.S. Coast Guard to help with non-combatant and non-law enforcement missions. Specifically, Flotilla 8-4 works to promote recreational boating safety in the South Jersey area, as well as assists the Coast Guard through auxiliary food service assistance, pollution response, search and rescue, communications, incident command, emergency management, and air and surface operations. The service Flotilla 8-4 makes the Coast Guard personnel more available for their duties, while at the same time saving taxpayer dollars. It was my pleasure to speak with this group and I want to sincerely thank them for their volunteer work and all that they have contributed to both the U.S. Coast Guard and the South Jersey community. God bless Flotilla 8-4, and God bless our United States of America.

PROTECTING SPEECH FROM  
GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2023*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 140) to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit Federal employees from advocating for censorship of viewpoints in their official capacity, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 140, the Protecting Speech from Government Interference Act.

Americans know that if they see something, they should say something. Yet Republicans are offering H.R. 140 which will prevent federal law enforcement and intelligence officers from telling social media platforms when they see something that could cause harm. For example, when Russia mounted a state-sponsored campaign to influence the 2016 presidential election, FBI agents were integral in detecting these actions. In order for our democracy to flourish, we must have the ability to stop the spread of misinformation that could cause harm.

What this bill does is prohibit law enforcement and other federal employees from providing information on personal safety and consumer safety. If passed, H.R. 140 will allow the spread of harmful foreign propaganda, promote hateful and violent content online, and undermine our democracy. This bill is proof that House Republicans would rather protect debunked, right-wing conspiracy theories than the safety of our communities and our democracy.

When Republicans held a markup of H.R. 140 last week, they rejected commonsense

amendments, including proposals that would have created a national security exception, an amendment to help law enforcement prevent violence incited by neo-Nazi groups, and efforts to ensure that federal employees could still share essential public health and consumer safety information.

Mr. Chair, H.R. 140 is yet more proof that Republicans would prefer to fan the flames of far-right conspiracy theories rather than bolster safeguards to American democracy.

It should be rejected.

RECOGNIZING THE JACKSONVILLE  
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKET-  
BALL TEAM FOR WINNING BACK-  
TO-BACK 4A STATE TITLES**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2023*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jacksonville High School boys' basketball team for winning back-to-back AHSAA Class 4A state titles.

On March 3, 2023, the Jacksonville Golden Eagles played fast, leaving no doubt as to who deserves to be state champion, beating Westminster Christian 51 to 37 to secure their title win. The game was played at BJCC's Legacy Arena in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Jacksonville Golden Eagles finished their championship season 29-6. This was head coach Tres Buzan's first year and the Golden Eagles' second basketball state title in school history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Buzan, the Jacksonville High School basketball team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Golden Eagles.

RECOGNIZING MCFARLAND  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2023*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the McFarland Unified School District (MUSD) for being one of nine districts selected as an Exemplary Dual Enrollment Awardee.

Formed in 1889, McFarland Unified School District was one of the first school districts established in the Central Valley. Since its founding, MUSD has provided students with a safe academic environment where they are equipped with the skills and tools necessary to succeed.

This year, the California Department of Education's Exemplary Dual Enrollment program award was started to recognize school districts who provide successful dual credit opportunities to students, allowing them to receive college credits while still in high school. McFarland Unified School District was selected as an awardee based on the demonstrated excellence of their dual enrollment program, which is provided through a partnership with Bakersfield College. MUSD was one of nine districts to receive the award, as their dual enrollment programs are currently helping hundreds of

students in the Central Valley get a head start on their college education and careers.

MUSD's dual enrollment program gives students the opportunity to advance their education in a variety of different fields such as business, education, agriculture, photography, public health, industrial technology, and Spanish. The many teachers, counselors, and faculty across MUSD who have helped to advance and expand the program play a vital role in helping to make students' dreams come true and are creating the next generation of industry leaders across the Central Valley.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring McFarland Unified School District as they received the California Department of Education's inaugural Exemplary Dual Enrollment award.

**JOSEPH VICARI****HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2023*

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the achievements of the longest serving Freeholder in the State of New Jersey, Joseph Vicari. Joseph was first elected to public office in 1979 as part of the Dover Township Committee. He held office in Dover Township until 1994, during which he served five years as the mayor. Because of his experience as a teacher, principal, and superintendent, Joseph made improving education in South Jersey a focus during his tenure. He also worked to protect our beaches, successfully fought for a new veteran's clinic, expanded the library system, promoted small businesses, and eased the burden on county taxpayers by seeking the highest possible number of grants. Additionally, Joseph successfully led the county through disasters like Super Storm Sandy and the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, after 43 years of dedicated public service, he has decided not to seek re-election. In his retirement, Joseph plans to spend time with his wife of 51 years, Joyce, his children, and his 2 grandchildren. Throughout Joseph's extensive tenure, he has improved Ocean County for the best and I am very proud of him for all his accomplishments. God Bless Joseph, and God Bless our United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE  
125 YEARS OF SEASIDE PARK**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2023*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, more than a century ago, a group of enterprising self-starters, inspired by the beauty around them, began plans to build a park on the Barnegat Barrier Island in Ocean County.

Although the harsh barrier beach sand precluded their dream of building a park, their desire to create a strong, spirited community centered around the island's natural charm succeeded with the founding of the Borough of Seaside Park exactly 125 years ago today on March 9, 1898.